

# **Cultural Council Minutes**

## **August 20th, 2008**

**Present:** Amy Whittenburg, Leah Kliger, Mary Jane Vinella, G.G. Getz, Kathy Feek, Becca Singer, Tom Gant, Bob Larson, Jennifer Bushnell, Ellen Miller-Wolfe (staff), Julie Reynolds (staff), Pat Pepper (Guest)

**Absent:** Linda Meuter, Boris Srdar, Eric Synn, Mia Coolidge,

**Guest:** Pat Pepper present to observe from Renton Municipal Arts Commission

### Uncorked Debrief

Sheila Cloney was present to receive feedback on the Uncorked event. The City received mostly good comments. Uncorked will submit a report to City Council that will describe the economic impact on the City and the benefit to the nonprofit (Hope Heart Institute) recipient. The Board commended the organization on the PR. Some members were disappointed with the art. The Board would like to see the beneficiary be a local organization. Feedback was provided regarding the entry price, the wine, logistics, and the treatment of Board members who volunteered.

### Local Arts Agency Meeting Debrief

This agenda item was deferred due to time constraints.

### Lake WA High School: KCC's Role in Development that is not private or public

The Council has discussed these development projects that are not private or public—can the Cultural Council reach out to them to encourage them to incorporate integrated art? This project has had regular meetings over other issues so it may be possible to set up a meeting with them regarding integrating art, and video. Jennifer works next to Lake WA School District and can find out who we could talk with regarding art. Northwest University also has arts programs and may have plans for development. The council would like to set up meetings with NW University and Lake WA School District. Ellen will find contact for NW University.

### Cultural Council Budget

The Council revisited the issue of encumbering \$40,000 for the strategic plan. Leah Kliger made a motion for \$40 to be earmarked for strategic plan, and \$6,000 for community collaboration, with City funding to cover the Uncorked and KAST sponsorships. Motion was seconded and passed.

### Private Development: Project Update

Bank of America: Ellen Miller-Wolfe reported that the CIVIK appeal was upheld, so the Bank of America development as proposed was denied. A new plan could be proposed or there could be court action.

Park Place: Ellen reported that a comment period and environmental impact statement review are nearing an end. The Planning Commission is looking into traffic, parking and other impact issues that are of concern to the community.

Totem Lake Mall: Ellen is in contact with DDR, mall developers. They have expressed concern about the market and how that might affect their ability to attract tenants. The city has no control over the timeline despite the funding that they agreed to for this project.

McLeod: Ellen reported that this project was also appealed due to a similar concern as the Bank of America: code language that calls for a two story building on Lake Street. This project was approved by the City

Council. The timeline for this project is to be finished by 2010. Bob will follow up with the architect to move forward on the art plans.

There is a new blog by Rob Butcher [www.kirklandviews.com](http://www.kirklandviews.com) that has updates on Kirkland development.

#### Board Term Limits

Given that 4 of the members will be ending their terms next year, KCC discussed the possibility of amending the resolution to allow more continuity. Remaining founding members will all go off the Board at the same time. Members asked whether this event can be staggered. Another possibility is to create an advisory council that could include prior members. This is something that the group might want to discuss at the retreat. Another concern was raised that it was unusual that the lengths of terms are not uniform—some are 2 and some are 3 years.

#### Strategic Plan

Staff Julie Reynolds reported on the consultant's future visits and planned focus groups and interviews. KCC would like to determine if we can have one longer visit in October rather than the 2 shorter ones currently planned. Leah would like to have the community collaboration meeting during one of his visits to get their feedback. Potentially that could be in October. KCC thinks the business community is important to have for a focus group. One option is to do an online survey for the business community rather than in person meeting. KCC discussed the best way to reach the businesses. After discussion, it was decided that a business focus group would be best way to get their feedback. GG suggested a conference call to discuss the next focus groups and individuals to follow up with. In the past it has been difficult to get people to appear at meetings—this could be a concern.

#### Retreat

Jerry Allen would like to facilitate part of the Cultural Council's retreat. KCC would like to also look at the work plan for the next year. The retreat is usually 4 hours. The Council decided that Jerry Allen should come at the beginning and can stay as long as he thinks is helpful. The topic can be the strategic plan—part of which is getting feedback from the KCC on their role.